

HENRY THRELKELD
COLEMAN & EMILY SPRINGER
COLEMAN

Bishop of Midway First Ward—1906-1913.

Henry T. Coleman was born November 20, 1863, in Big Cottonwood, Salt Lake County, Utah. He was the only son of Henry and Mary Jane Threlkeld Coleman. The family moved to Midway in 1864. He married Emily M. Springer on December 31, 1889. They had eleven children, ten of whom lived to adulthood.

Mr. Coleman was blessed December, 1863, in Big Cottonwood by Bishop Brinton. He was baptized in 1873 by Peter Abplanalp, Sr., and like many others at that time was re-baptized in 1880 by Elijah Alder and confirmed by John Huber. He was ordained a teacher in 1881 by David Van Wagoner; as an Elder in 1890 by Bishop David Van Wagoner; as a High Priest by Apostle Hyrum M. Smith in 1906. He was an acting teacher with John Van Wagoner, Sr., in 1881, with John Sonderegger in 1890. In 1890 he was chosen as the secretary of the

2nd Quorum of Elders to Adam Empey as President. In 1892 he was chosen as 2nd counselor in the 2nd Quorum of Elders with D. L. Van Wagoner as president, John A. Wootton as 1st counselor, and John E. Morton as secretary. In 1905 he was set apart by Bishop Joseph Francom as the 1st counselor in the YMMIA with Attewell Wootton, Jr., president; John Van Wagoner, 2nd counselor; and Robert Ross, secretary. In 1906 he was set apart as Bishop of the Midway First Ward under the hands of Apostle Hyrum M. Smith, with John U. Buehler as his first counselor, William L. Van Wagoner as his second counselor, and Charles E. Bronson as clerk. When Brother Buehler moved away, he chose William L. Van Wagoner as 1st counselor and William W. Wilson as his second counselor. When Charles Bronson went on his mission, he chose Simon Epperson to be the ward clerk. In October, 1913, Bishop Coleman was sustained as a member of the Wasatch Stake High Council and was set apart by Apostle James E. Talmage. In 1920 he was ordained the Patriarch of Wasatch Stake by the Church Patriarch, Hyrum G. Smith. This position he held at his death.

Mr. Coleman was appointed constable of Midway in 1892 by the Governor of the Territory of Utah, Arthur L. Thomas. He was made a trustee of the Midway Town Board in 1897. In 1898 he was appointed road supervisor of the Midway roads. He was president of the Midway Water Works from 1900 to 1906. He was elected a member of the Wasatch County Commission in 1900, and served until 1907. He was elected a member of the Midway Town Board in 1907. He served on the Draft Board during World War I. He was appointed as an agent of the United States Public Service Bureau by the U.S. Secretary of Labor, W. B. Nelson, in 1918; and was appointed a delegate to the Mountain Congress for a League of Nations by Governor Simon Bamberger in 1919. He was crop and pests inspector of Wasatch County in 1919-1921. He was elected president of the Wasatch County Chamber of Commerce in 1930. He was appointed a member of the Utah State Defense Council in 1942, was a member of the Selective Service Board from 1942 to 1947. He was a director of the Heber Bank. He served as State Road Foreman in Wasatch County for twenty-six years.

He died May 13, 1952, in Midway, and was buried in the Midway Cemetery.

Emily Matilda Springer Coleman was born September 6, 1868, in Midway. She was the daughter of Nathan Chatmond Springer and Matilda Robey. She was married to Henry Threlkeld Coleman on December 31, 1889, in Midway, and the marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple.

Emily came into the world one bright autumn Sabbath morning, the first-born of her goodly parents. The beautiful early morning birth heralded the joy and brightness of this lovely person. She learned easily and quickly. She was talented and capable from her very early childhood. She was a born executive and leader. She could sing, play the organ and write well at an early age. She had exceptional dramatic ability. While still in the elementary school, she assisted Attewell Wootton, the teacher, with his reading groups. At fourteen years of age she was a teacher in the Sunday School, and continued from then on to work in the Church.

After the death of her father she was a great comfort and help to her mother and family. She and her husband lived close to the Robeys and Springers and proved a pillar of strength to them.

Mrs. Coleman is the mother of eleven children, ten of them still living—all prosperous, talented citizens. She is the author of many lovely poems and pageants. She directed scores of pageants, programs and plays. She sang in the choir and was a member of the Singing Mothers until her advanced years prevented participation. She will be ninety-one years old in September, 1959.

She taught in the Mutual Improvement Association in her youth. She was president of the primary in the Midway First Ward, president of the Midway First Ward Relief Society for thirteen years and counselor for five years. She was a member of the Wasatch Stake Sunday School Board, the Stake Mutual Improvement Association Board, the Stake Relief Society Board. She has been a teacher in the Sunday School and Relief Society, and was the genealogical leader of the Midway First Ward.

She was the Charter Captain of the Hawthorne Camp of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, first vice-president to county

president Jane Turner of the DUP, first vice-president to county president Emma Wherritt of the DUP, county chaplain of the DUP.

She was chairman of the Red Cross in Midway, and co-chairman of the Liberty Bond Drive. She was a member of the Midway Dramatic Club, correspondent for the Wasatch Wave for forty years. She has spoken at many funerals, and presented innumerable programs. She was the Wasatch County Mother of the Year in 1955. She has traveled extensively.

The home of Henry and Emily Coleman has always been a gathering place, abounding in friendliness, cheer and hospitality.

Mrs. Coleman died at her home on March 15, 1961, and was buried in the Midway Cemetery.

At the time of her death, an editorial in the Wasatch Wave of April 6, 1961, entitled "A Grand Old Lady—Emily Coleman," said the following:

"The grand old lady of Wasatch County passed away last month, leaving a vacancy in the hearts of an entire community.

"Mrs. Emily Coleman, known affectionately as "Grandma" to hundreds of younger friends, left at her death a heritage of ten children, 26 grandchildren, 54 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren spread across the world from Midway to Australia.

"In addition, her friends numbered in the thousands; Midway First Ward Church scene of her funeral, overflowed with crowd present to pay their final respects and notes of sympathy continue to pour in from far and wide.

"A correspondent for the Wasatch Wave for 40 years, Grandma Coleman served her church and community faithfully in many capacities.

"Grandma Coleman had been around for 92 years, so her passing came as no shock to family and friends. But those 92 years had been so filled with doing and giving and loving that she had become a permanent part of Wasatch County; her handsome, hospitable Midway home a haven for relatives and neighbors who found her perennial youth, her warmth and sparkle irresistible.

"Just as the gay patchwork cushion covers she worked at cheer the homes of her many friends here, so will the memory of Grandma Coleman cheer the hearts of those who loved her."